Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing medical communications from a clinician to patients in an outpatient environment having a server comprising the steps of:

a) conducting a visit with an outpatient;

b) ordering a test at a laboratory based on the visit;

c) subsequent to steps a) and b), receiving first data relating to a the test from a laboratory via electronic data interchange to the server;

d) retrieving from the server second data relating to a patient associated with the first test data;

e) selecting a medplate based upon the first test data;

f) autopopulating the medplate from the server based upon the first test data and the second patient data;

g) applying at least one rule to select default textual fragments based upon the first test data;

h) providing from the server alternative textual fragments within the medplate;

i) presenting the medplate from the server for review by the clinician;

j) receiving selection input regarding use of the default and alternative textual fragments to modify the medplate from the clinician;

k) automatically generating in the server a correspondence based upon the modified medplate; and

l) automatically providing the correspondence to the patient from the server, wherein the server provides the correspondence via a means selected from electronic mail and generating a traditional postal letter.

2. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the at least one rule is an inclusionary rule.

3. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the at least one rule is an exclusionary rule.

4. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the default and alternative textual fragments include check boxes, blank fill-in boxes and boxes with pull-down menus.

5. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of storing a calendar date for an action based upon the correspondence, and automatically generating a reminder related to the action on the calendar date.

6. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the step of requesting confirmation of receipt of the correspondence.

7. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 6, further comprising the step of archiving the correspondence with a notation as to whether or not the confirmation of receipt was received.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 6, further comprising the step of, providing an attachment with the correspondence, wherein the attachment is selected from the group consisting of a laboratory requisition, prescription for ordering subsequent clinical tests, a prescription for a medication, a prescription for therapy, a portion of text describing information about subsequent clinical tests, test results, symptoms, health conditions, a prescribed medication, a prescribed therapy, a plurality of recommendations for lifestyle modification, screening, and interactions with health care providers, and a referral to a health care provider.

9. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computer system to perform a method for generating physician to patient communication in an outpatient environment having a server, the computer system having a server program and a client program with functions for invocation by performing the steps of:

a) conducting a visit with an outpatient;

b) ordering a test at a laboratory based on the visit;

c) subsequent to steps a) and b), receiving first data relating to a the test from a laboratory via electronic data interchange to the server;

d) retrieving from the server second data relating to a patient associated with the first test data;

e) selecting a medplate based upon the first test data;

f) autopopulating the medplate from the server based upon the first test data and the second patient data;

g) applying at least one rule to select default textual fragments based upon the first test data;

h) providing from the server alternative textual fragments within the medplate;

i) presenting the medplate from the server for review by the physician;

j) receiving selection input regarding use of the default and alternative textual fragments to modify the medplate from the physician;

k) automatically generating in the server a correspondence based upon the modified medplate; and

l) automatically electronically providing the correspondence to the patient from the server.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for generating <u>follow up</u> patient communication from a clinician <u>to an outpatient</u> using a computer for facilitating interaction between <u>the clinician and the computer</u> a user and a client, comprising:

concluding a visit between the clinician and the outpatient;

providing a repository of snippets including patient text and providing a database <u>in the computer</u>;

displaying information <u>to the clinician</u> from said database regarding a selected <u>the out</u>patient using <u>a</u> said display device <u>of the computer</u>;

receiving <u>from the clinician via an input</u> interface <u>of the computer</u> a selection of at least one snippet from said repository of snippets;

displaying <u>to the clinician</u> at least a portion of said selected snippet using said display;

enabling interaction <u>by the clinician</u> with said snippet using said <u>input</u> interface to select at least a portion of said snippet; and

<u>automatically</u> generating patient communication based upon the interaction with said snippet; and

<u>automatically electronically sending the outpatient communication to the selected patient from the computer subsequent to the visit.</u>

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said interaction with said snippet includes selecting items from a menu.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said interaction with said snippet includes selecting or deselecting a text portion.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said selecting or deselecting includes utilizing a checkbox or drop-down menu.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said interaction with said snippet includes

inserting one or multiple words at a predefined location.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said interaction with said snippet includes importing data from said database.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said importing data from said medical database includes displaying one or more of the following: EKG traces, an X-ray image, a CT image and a tangible manifestation of a test result.

Claims 17-23 (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method for prescribing medication to a patient by a physician based on received test results, comprising the steps of:

providing a display device and an interface for facilitating interaction between a human and a processor, providing a repository of snippets including patient text, providing a database including patient data;

viewing information regarding a patient including at least one test result using said display device;

selecting at least one snippet from said repository of snippets;
interacting with said snippet using said interface to select at least a portion of said snippet;
generating a patient communication including a prescription for said medication; and

automatically electronically sending said patient communication including said prescription to said patient.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said generating includes providing a security feature designed to prevent duplication of said prescription.

Claims 26-38 (Canceled)